(a) whether the Gujarat Government has represented for increasing reimbursement of road freight expenses for transportation of palmolien allotted by the Union Government through STC;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering the same; and

(c) the time frame by which a decision could be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) No such representation has been received from the Government of Gujarat.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Master plan for Chilka Lake

5054. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to implement a Master plan for development of Chilka Lake in Orissa;

(b) whether that Master plan is likely to be implemented during Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the funds earmarked therefor; and

(d) what other steps are being taken to restore the ecology of that largest blue lagoon of Asia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Government of Orissa have decided to prepare a Master plan for development of Chilka lake through a non-Governmental organisation namely, Wetlands International (South Asia). The Master plan is expected to be ready by September, 2000.

(b) and (c) A decision on the implementation schedule can be worked out and funds earmarked only after the Master plan is finalised.

(d) Chilka lake has been identified for conservation and management under the national Wetland Conservation Programme of Government. The Programme includes such activities as afforestation, soil conservation, habitat improvement of Nalabana, environmental awareness, information database

etc. for which assistance of Rs. 1.48 crore has been released till date. Besides this, Tenth Finance Commission has released assistance of Rs. 27 crore as a special problem grant for conservation of Chilka lake.

Joint Forest Management Programme

5055. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Joint Forest Management Programme on protection and development of forests is being implemented by the Ministry;

(b) if so, whether any project is being carried out in the North East;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) As per the provisions of National Forest Policy, 1988, Government of India had issued guidelines to the state governments on June 1, 1990 for involving village communities in regeneration and protection of degraded forest lands under the Joint Forest Management (JFM) programme. Till now 22 states have accepted the concept of Joint Forest Management programme and have issued resolutions in this regard. After a review, on February 21, 2000 the government has issued guidelines to the state government for strengthening JFM programme and to further encourage the communities to participate in JFM programme.

(b) to (d) In the North East Region JFM programme is being implemented by the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura. As reported by the state governments the state-wise number of JFM committees and area under JFM programme in these states is as under:

S.No.	State	Number of JFM Committees	Area under JFM (ha.)
1	Arunachal Pradesh	10	5,285.00
2.	Assam	101	3,060.00
3.	Mizoram	103	5,870.00
4	Nagaland	55	627.00
5	Sikkim	98	2,191.00
6	Tripura	157	16,227.30
TOTAL:		524	33,260.30